

headquartered in Duluth, provides the United States Air Force with combat Air Sovereignty and Air Defense. Additionally, both Wings are continually prepared to support the State of Minnesota with assistance in the event of disaster declaration.

During WWII the 109th Observation Squadron was deployed to Europe, initially flying the Supermarine Spitfire Mk V and later reconnaissance missions with the North American F-6 Mustang. During the Korean War, Minnesota's Air Guard was again activated, contributing pilots to active wings throughout the Korean theater.

Throughout the Cold War of the 1950s and early 1960s, both units of the 179th Fighter Interceptor Squadron in Duluth and 109th Fighter Interceptor Squadron in St. Paul provided active air defense commitments with 24-hour alert status. Threats by the Soviet Union to oust Western troops from West Berlin in 1961 prompted the Berlin Crisis and a call-up of selected National Guard forces throughout the United States. Included in this mobilization were members of the 133rd Air Transport Wing, who served in federal active service for eleven months while operating out of their home station at the Minneapolis-Saint Paul Airport. While the Minnesota Air Guard was never officially mobilized during the Vietnam War, the organization flew hundreds of supply and transport missions to Southeast Asia.

Today, the Minnesota Air National Guard continues to serve with valor and with honor. We all recall the critical moments following the attack on our nation on September 11th, 2001. Immediately, F-16s from the 148th Fighter Wing were called into action for combat air patrols over critical areas. Since then, the Air Guard has provided support for our nation's efforts in Operation Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation New Dawn as well as other operations worldwide. Brave men and women today from 133rd Airlift Wing and the 148th Fighter Wing continue to serve our nation with distinction in overseas operations today.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in rising to honor the commitment and dedication of the 2,000 airmen and women serving in the Minnesota Air National Guard as we commemorate the 90th Anniversary of this pioneering unit.

IN HONOR OF GUERINO AND CAROLYN RIEPI'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY

### HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 6, 2011*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Guerino and Carolyn Riepi to acknowledge their 60th anniversary.

Guerino and Carolyn were married on May 5, 1951 at St. Paul's Croatian Church in Cleveland, Ohio. Over the course of their lives together Guerino and Carolyn raised four children in Parma and later North Royalton, Ohio. The couple takes great pride in the accomplishments of their seven grandchildren.

The Riepi's were active members of the Northeast Ohio community. Guerino was a member of the Brooklyn-Parma Knights of Columbus and Parma Elks Lodge. Carolyn was

involved with her children's lives as a Cub Scout Pack leader and was awarded a Marian Award by the Girl Scouts. Carolyn also belonged to the Ridgewood Lanes women's league.

After a career with Erie Lackawanna Railroad and Parma City Schools, respectively, Guerino and Carolyn retired to the Timber Pines Retirement Community in Spring Hill, Florida. They continue to be active, participating in such activities as golf, bocce and billiards.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring the long and happy life that Guerino and Carolyn continue to enjoy together.

### THE LIFE OF ELIZABETH WATKINS SAUL

### HON. CORRINE BROWN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 6, 2011*

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the constituents of the Third Congressional District of Florida, I rise to offer heartfelt condolences and pay tribute to the life of Elizabeth Watkins Saul, a humanitarian, social service advocate and life activist.

I am moved and encouraged when recalling the life achievements of the gentle and loving spirit of an accomplished woman who lived such a brief and beautiful life of service. She strived for excellence in every endeavor and she exuded boundless energy and love that was shared in the field of community and social activism. As a wife, community leader and social service advocate, we embrace her husband, family and the community that embraced her service and humanitarian efforts. A woman for whom education was important, Elizabeth Watkins Saul received her B.S. Degree from the historic Texas Tech University with a degree in political science and public policy.

On this special occasion and celebration of the life of a phenomenal woman, I join with the immediate family, and loved ones in saying farewell and praising God for the life of a woman of God who was selfless and lived a productive life of purpose. Elizabeth enjoyed fishing, painting, traveling, decorating, BINGO, reading and spending quality time with her friends and family. Elizabeth was dearly cherished by her loved ones, colleagues and her community in Fort Worth, Texas; Las Cruces, New Mexico; Alexandria, Virginia; Orlando, Florida; and Tucson, Arizona. Elizabeth's employment spans from Clinique Cosmetics, Capitol Hill, The Metropolitan Orlando Urban League, Raytheon and Tuskegee University Resolution Team. She most recently worked as a successful and well respected Senior Manager of Human Resources at Raytheon Missile Systems, where she played an integral role in the recruitment of Tuskegee graduates for careers in engineering and management. Elizabeth was a Tuskegee University presidential transition team member. In addition to being an essential part of President Gilbert Rochon's Transition Team; Ms. Saul was a member of two Transition Team committees: Improve the Management and Performance of the Kellogg Center and Improve Staff Quality and Productivity. Tuskegee will establish the

Elizabeth Watkins Saul Scholarship at the University beginning in the fall of 2011. As a woman of integrity and character, Elizabeth was both gifted and inspiring, always leaning on the everlasting tasks of making a difference in her community. Where she saw pain, she sought to relieve it with personal interaction; where she saw potential in others, she gave them impetus and encouragement; where she saw despair, she brought direction and promise; and where she saw the need for love and caring, she unselfishly gave of herself.

The life of Elizabeth Watkins Saul was one of accomplishment and service. In her passing, we pay tribute to an accomplished woman and her life of service to each of us. She will be remembered for the love of her family, friends, Sorority Sisters of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., and colleagues. This attribute set her above and beyond all selfless giving. She has a special anointed gift of discernment and those that had an opportunity to be in her presence were blessed to experience her tireless energy for service and were beneficiaries of her boundless generosity. It is my prayer that by her example that each of us become the bearers of her humanitarian legacy. We come now to join in prayer for her parents, and a host of loving relatives, friends, whose lives have been forever changed by this exemplary woman of excellence and peace. I thank our Heavenly Father for allowing us to be blessed with the time spent with Elizabeth, our friend. Elizabeth was a devoted wife and leaves memories and love to her husband H. Rock Saul of 17 years; father and mother George, Sr., and Carolyn Watkins; Siblings Gerald Cook, George Watkins, Jr., Darnetta Kay Watkins-Owens (Michael); Mother-in-law Arleen Haydel; Sister-in-law Nicole Saul, six nieces and nephews, one godchild (Evans); Grandmother Dear Watson and a host of family members and special friends.

### HONORING CONGRESSWOMAN WOOLSEY'S SERVICE

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, July 6, 2011*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, as Dean of the California Congressional delegation, I rise to highlight the career of Congresswoman LYNN WOOLSEY, who has announced that she will retire after the 112th Congress. Congresswoman WOOLSEY broke barriers when she began her career as the first former welfare recipient to serve in Congress. As a young single mother with three children, she needed public assistance to make ends meet—even though she was employed. This sensitivity to working families has shone through her Congressional career.

Rep. WOOLSEY serves as a senior member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, as the ranking member on the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, and as a member of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education.

On this committee, she helped to pass the Family and Medical Leave Act, which protects Americans who need temporary employment leave due to a serious illness or to care for a sick family member. Recently, Congresswoman WOOLSEY proposed "the Balancing